

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled).

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 41, wherein said predetermined tool design further ~~comprises comprising~~ a second tool section ~~of said tool~~, sintered ~~separately separated~~ from said first tool section, receiving said joint component of said first tool section in a second tool section receiving area.

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein said predetermined tool design further comprises a plurality of joint components and receiving areas distributed on both said first tool section and said second tool section for coupling together sections for forming ~~of~~ said larger tool.

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 3, wherein said first tool section and said second tool section define holes aligned during an assembly process of said larger tool, wherein said first tool section and said second tool section holes receive at least one pin aligning bolt ~~bolting~~ said first tool section with ~~to~~ said second tool section.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 41, wherein said predetermined tool design further comprises a plurality of sections of said larger tool, sintered separately from said first tool section, at least one of said plurality of sections receiving said joint component of said first section in a receiving area, said plurality of sections fitting together in a predetermined manner.

6. (previously amended) The system of claim 41, wherein said joint component comprises a tongue feature or a tongue feature comprising a cross pin for aligning said tongue feature with a second section receiving area.

7. (currently amended) The system of claim 41 further comprising a first heat sink positioned within said tool chamber for cooling said joint component or a second predetermined feature of said at least one other tool section, thereby limiting warping of said joint component or said predetermined feature during sintering of said first tool section and said at least one other tool section.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 41, wherein said predetermined tool design comprises a buffer feature protecting said joint component or a second predetermined feature of said at least one other tool section such that said buffer feature is primarily affected by heat generated during sintering in an area of said joint component or a second predetermined feature of said at least one other tool section.

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 41, wherein individual contoured details of said first tool section and said at least one other section are sintered or manufactured during separate operations and as said tool sections are ~~and~~ later coupled together to said tool ~~to said tool~~ at predefined locations on said tool sections.

10. (currently amended) The system of claim 41 further comprising a plurality of predetermined features comprising said joint component, wherein all of said plurality of predetermined features are designed on one side of said tool sections.

11-17. (canceled)

18. (withdrawn) A sintering system comprising: a part cylinder enclosing a sinter powder; a first heat sink arrangement positioned within said tool chamber for cooling at least one of a first plurality of predetermined features of a tool on a first tool section, thereby limiting warping of said at least one of said first plurality of predetermined features during sintering of said first tool section; a second heat sink arrangement positioned within said tool chamber for

cooling at least one of a second plurality of predetermined features of a tool on a second tool section, thereby limiting warping of said at least one of said second plurality of predetermined features during sintering of said second tool section, said second tool section adapted to couple to said first tool section; a laser system sintering said first tool section and said second tool section as a function of controller signals; and a controller generating said controller signals as a function of a predetermined tool design, predetermined positions of said first plurality of tool features and said second plurality of tool features, and a predetermined orientation of said first section and said second section within said part chamber as a function of minimize warping said tool features during sintering, wherein said predetermined tool design comprises a buffer feature protecting at least one of said first plurality of predetermined features of said second plurality of predetermined features such that said buffer feature is primarily affected by heat generated during sintering in an area of said at least one of said first and second pluralities of predetermined features, wherein said first or second pluralities of predetermined features is designed on one side of said tool.

19. (withdrawn) The system of claim 18, wherein said first or second pluralities of predetermined features comprise at least one of a step and thickness variation, a gusset, a stiffener, an interface and coordination feature for making interfaces, a construction ball interface, a coordination hole, a trim of pocket and drill insert, a hole pattern, or a hole for interfacing hardware.

20. (withdrawn) The system of claim 18, wherein said buffer feature is removable such that damage is limited to said predetermined feature when said buffer feature is removed due to a weak connective link between said buffer feature and said predetermined feature.

21. (withdrawn) The system of claim 18, wherein individual contoured details of said tool are sintered or manufactured during separate operations as said tool and later coupled to said tool.

22. (withdrawn) The system of claim 18, wherein said controller generates said controller signals as a function of said predetermined tool design through activating said first heat sink arrangement or said second heat sink arrangement depending on which tool section is required.

23-40. (canceled).

41. (currently amended) A sintering system comprising:
a tool chamber enclosing a sinter material comprising a laser fusible sinter powder;
a laser system sintering said sinter material as a function of controller signals; and
~~a first tool section having a first plurality of predetermined features;~~
~~at least one other section of said tool having a plurality of predetermined features;~~
~~said first tool section comprising a joint component and being adapted to couple to said at least one other section of said tool;~~

a controller generating said controller signals as a function of a predetermined tool design, said predetermined tool design including a first tool section and at least one other tool section that are sintered separately and later coupled together, each of said first tool section and said at least one other tool section having a plurality of predetermined features; said predetermined tool design's first tool section comprising a joint component for coupling together said first tool section and said at least one other tool section of said tool, said at least one other tool section receiving said joint component in a receiving area, said first tool section and said at least one other tool section fitting together in a predetermined manner to form a larger tool.